

(5) Finally, the Member represented the difficulties experienced in getting agricultural implements and also complained of destruction of crops and cattle by wild animals, and requested that remedial measures might be taken.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

III.—PROTECTION. (1) LEGISLATION (*continued.*)

THE NAIR PARTITION.

After lunch time the Dewan invited the opinions of the Nair Members of the Assembly on the question of the partition of Nair Tarvads. Of the 29 Nair Members, 16 were for *Tharazhi* partition, 9 for individual partition and 3 were against partition altogether. One Nair Member was absent throughout the whole Session.

IV.—PRODUCTION

(1) AGRICULTURE (*continued.*)

54. Certain suggestions for the improvement of agriculture in the Shencottah Taluk

Mr. N. Subbiah Thevar (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) complained of the ryots being put to immense difficulties on account of the insufficient supply of water for irrigation purposes. The existing tanks of the taluk were not capacious enough to hold the necessary quantity of water. The Tank Restoration Party had not been working satisfactorily and the irrigation works done in the taluk did not fully satisfy the requirements of the ryots. There were large areas of dry lands which could be converted into wet lands, if sufficient water was available. He, therefore, suggested that dams might be constructed in the Muriappanchan river and the Palaruvaiar and the water diverted into the reservoirs constructed for the purpose, so that the water in the two rivers could be made available for irrigation purposes.

He then stated that the areas now set apart for the grazing of cattle were unsuitable for the purpose and suggested that large areas of reserved forests situated near the town be thrown open as pasture land and for the supply of the necessary agricultural implements. The Member next referred to the delay and difficulty experienced by the people of the taluk in getting free passes from the Forest Department for the removal of firewood and green manure leaves. The necessity for the Proverthicar's certificates and the sketches of the lands from which firewood, &c. had to be removed, now insisted on, should be done away with, as no serious harm would be done to the forests thereby.

He also submitted that, for the possession and sale of pepper, ginger, cocoanut oil, and other articles subject to export duty in the Shencottah taluk, the traders were being compelled to take out licenses from the Excise Department and to keep special accounts for the purpose. The system worked great hardship on the people and should, therefore, be done away with as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

55. Desirability of issuing agricultural loans to the Cardamom ryots on a nominal interest.

Mr. S. P. Sultan Ahamad Baduradin Rowther (Member, Devicolum taluk) spoke of the great difficulties experienced by the cardamom ryots on account of the recent war, scarcity of rain, increase in the price of food-stuffs, increase in the labourers' wages and the enhancement of the acreage value of cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre. He suggested the following proposals for the consideration of Government:—

(1) Agricultural loans should be advanced to cardamom ryots on the security of their cardamom lands on interest at the rate of 4 or 5 per cent. and the same recovered in small annual instalments.

(2) All the cardamoms produced in the State should be purchased through Government agency and sold after due advertisement at Alleppey or other commercial centres for proper prices, thereby preventing foreigners from purchasing cardamoms at very low prices and selling them outside Travancore at exorbitant prices.

(3) A factory should be established in a convenient place for the preparation of tincture cardamom and other valuable products out of cardamom, which would fetch very good prices in foreign markets.

(4) Lands fit for cardamom cultivation should be registered subject to a very low rate of *tharavila*.

(5) Means of communication in the cardamom-growing areas should be improved.

(6) Vaidyasalas should be established for the benefit of the cardamom ryots and the coolies employed by them.

(7) Post offices should be opened at the important Thavalams.

(8) All the concessions granted to the cardamom ryots of the State should be extended to those who had come from outside Travancore.

(9) Export duty should be levied on cardamoms.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

56. Certain suggestions for the improvement of agriculture and industries and the need for additional Government help and supervision in that direction.

Mr. P. Madhavan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) first thanked the Government for nominating an Ezhava as a member of the Legislative Council. He then described the state of economic helplessness the country had been driven to on account of the war and added that too much care and attention could not be devoted to the improvement of agriculture. The people were suffering a good deal. The Agricultural Department was no doubt doing its level best to introduce improved and scientific methods of cultivation, but the results could not be expected to manifest themselves so soon. The expansion of the department with larger funds placed to its credit was highly necessary, so as to enable it to fulfil its duties to the ryot. The important and urgent duty to be attended to was the increased output of paddy to meet the growing demand. According to the estimate of Dr. Kunjan Pillai, the Director of Agriculture, an additional area of 1,64,000 acres of land was needed to produce within the State the whole paddy required for consumption. It was impracticable to secure such a large additional tract of land for paddy cultivation. The only course to be followed was intensive cultivation. Dr. Kunjan Pillai's hope was that the two lakhs of acres of *punja* lands could be cultivated annually. The Member expressed an earnest hope that, with the aid of Government, the department would be in a position to realise the end the Director had in view. Similar endeavours should be made to improve *cherikkal* cultivation also. The people appreciated the land concessions granted in G. O. $\frac{2}{4} \frac{3}{0} \frac{11}{12} \frac{R}{-}$, dated the 8th February 1920, but what was needed more urgently was that the lands applied for and registered should be actually handed over to the registry-holders promptly and in time to put them under the plough. There were several grievances of the people in the matter of *puduval* registry and the only remedy was to appoint a special officer of the status of a Dewan Peishkar to attend to *puduval* work. It was highly desirable that the *tharavila* should be reduced on lands for paddy cultivation and that all reasonable facilities should be given for the production of such articles of staple food as tapioca. People were incurring considerable loss both on account of excess as well as scarcity of water for cultivation purposes. To save them from such losses all irrigational conveniences should be granted. Agricultural loans should be given promptly. All encouragement should be given to manufacture such articles as sugar, molasses, &c., for the use of the people. The Member *inter alia* urged that permission should be granted to manufacture without restriction sweet toddy. The hardships of the people in regard to apparel were so great that Government should make arrangements for getting down yarn from the cotton districts of British India. In conclusion, the Member prayed for early action being taken to promote agriculture and trade.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.